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AGO ltr 29 Apr 1980; AGO ltr 29 Apr 1980

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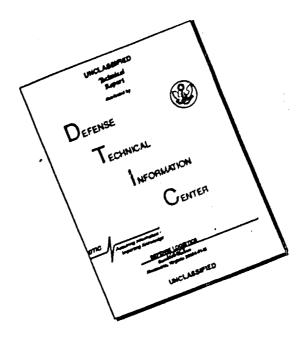
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OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

IN REPLY REFER TO

AGDA (M) () to the

FOR OT UT 702131

10 November 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 223d Aviation Battalion, Period Ending 30 April 1970 (U)

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10 November 1970

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AVBAUD-LE

13 May 1970

SUBJECT: Cherati na. Report-Regions Dearmed, 223d Aviation Battalion (Combat, Radiod Indias 30 April 1970)

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1. Section 1, Franctions: Significant Activities.

a. (U) wherel. This report covers the period 1 February 1970 through 30 Auril 1970, and is submitted in accordance with AR 525-15 and USAFV Regulation (C-1). This report includes the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1233 Aviation Battalion (Combat), 19th Aviation Company (Utility Airplane), 1954 Aviation Detachment, 1833 Aviation Company (Utility Airplane), 135th Aviation Company (Utility Airplane), 2033 Aviation Company (Utility Airplane), 2034 Aviation Company (Utility Airplane), and the 225th and a Company (Dirveillance Airplane).

b. (C) Forsennel.

(1) Infusion frogram. During the reported period there have not been any significant problems that were not being experienced throughout USARV as a result of the withdrawal of troops. In order for this battalion to maintain as near a balance of strength as possible within the units, it was necessary to make intermal reassignments. The new policy restricting second extensions will most likely cause problems for a period, however when replacements each up with requisitions and manning levels, the infusion program should improve. This new policy will, however, limit this unit's capability of controlling its own infusion program and will depend mostly on outside assistance.

(2) Replacements.

(a) Enlisted replacements were received in satisfactory numbers during this period, (FM assigned: Feb 57; Mar 62; Apr 107). The quality of junior enlisted replacements remains lacking. MOS producing schools continue to graduate individuals on the basis of time spent in school rather than proficiency. For usive OJT is required to train individuals, more noticeable lately in the administrative type MOS's. Shortages currently exist in the following arrors: MOS 17L4F (Auth 9, Asg 2), 63F20 (Auth 6, Asg 1), 67A10 (Auth 37, Asg 9), and 67C20 (Auth 45, Asg 40). During this quarter 226 enlisted represents were received leaving the battalion at 97% of its erlisted strength at the end of the quarter, an increase of 4% since the previous quarter.

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- (b) The quality of officer replacements has been satisfactory, however, 83% of the aviator replacements arrived directly out of flight school. Shortage of commissioned officers becomes more critical each quarter. A total of 18 commissioned officers and 6 warrant officers were received during this quarter leaving the battalien with 64% of its eath rized commissioned strength of 191 and 90% of its authorized warrant strength of 57, or an extrall officer percentage of 73%. During this period the assigned strength of commissioned officers dropped 6%, warrant officers 5% for a combined officer strength drop of 5.5%.
- (3) Recollistment. During this reporting period the battalion recollistment team conducted 15 visits to outlying companies. The results were 3 re alistments of career soldiers and 3 first term recall atments. This represents 60% of the eligible first term soldiers and 100% reenlistment of career soldiers.
- (4) Current status of the 223d Aviation Battalion (Combat) is attached as Inclosure $\#1_{\bullet}$
- (5) The significant personnel changes within the command and staff during the last quarter are as follows:
- (a) LTC William M. Jonkins, Jr., IN, 244-40-9629, assumed command of the 223d Aviation Battalion (Combat) on 27 February 1970, vice LTC Rob rt F. McGuffin, IN, 264-30-9687.
- (b) MiJ Arlie Danton, IN, 260-62-5262, assumed duties as Battalion Executive Officer on 26 February 1970, vice MiJ Konnis F. Snyder, AR, 254-60-5901
- (c) MAJ Don L. Hayes, AR, 448-34-0065, assumed duties as Battalion Executive Officer on 16 April 1970, vice MAJ Arlie Deaton, IN, 260-62-5262.
- (d) CPT Eichard L. Baker, FA, 459-56-7705, assumed duties as Battalion S-1/Adjutint on 16 april 1970, vice MWJ Don L. Hayes, ΛR , L48-34-0005
- (a) CPT London P. Willman, FA, 536-38-2394, assumed duties as Battalion S-3 on 26 February 1970, vice Mad Arlie Deaton, In., 260-62-5252.
- (f) CPT Paul A. Piper, IN, 522-50-1769, assumed duties as Battalion Aviation Safety Officer on 3 February 1970, vice CPT George R. Black, PA, 259-68-5898.
- (g) CSM Gordon L, Saunders, 218-12-3145, assumed duties as Battalier Command Sergeant Major on 12 March 1970, vice SCM Filstcher E. Thomas, 431-24-9979.

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- (h) CPT Carl J. Saggio, MC, 398-40-4390, assumed command of the 163d Medical Department on 14 February 1970.
- (i) MAJ Kennis F. Smyder. AR, 234-60-3901, assumed command of the 185th Aviation Company (Utility Airplane) on 3 March 1977, vice MAJ Manuel R. Carnero, IN, 093-22-1951.
- (j) M.J Arlie Perton, IN, 260-62-5262, assumed command of the 219th Aviation Company (Ttility Airplane) on 16 April 1970, vice MAJ David C. Normann, I., 397-28-6545.
- (k) MAJ Richard C. Axtell, SO, 425-58-3374, assumed command of the 225th Aviation Company (Surveillance Airplane) on 24 March 1970, vice MAJ William C. Lage, Jr., Fa, 429-68-6113.
- (6) Pasialties: The battilion casualties for the period were one killed and five wounded. (See Inclosure #2).
 - (7) Awards: A breakdown of unit awards appears in Inclosure #2.
 - c. (C) Intelligance:
- (1) Enemy Situation: During the period 1 February 30 April, estimated enemy atrength has fluctuated less than 3500. The estimated strength on 1 February 1970 was reported to be 55,894 in the II Corps Tactical Zone. It has since decreased to 52,436 (estimated) as of 18 April 1970. Enomy strongholds continue to be in Kontum, Binh Dinh, and Binh Thuan Provinces, with lesser strongholds in Pleiku, Darlac and Quang Duc Provinces. The latter three provinces can and do draw upon the VC/NVA sanctuary in Cambodia for attacks on allied and US Installations, returning to the relatively safe haven in Cambodia.
- slightly upward trand. Most attacks upon U.S. Installations have shown a slightly upward trand. Most attacks have been standoff attacks, utilizing indirect fire weapons such as the B-40, 107MM, and 122MM Rockets, as well as the 82MM Mortar. The sappor is still being successfully used against U.S. Military Installations, however, his successes are on the decline. During the reported period there were 48 instances where U.S. Installations, with 223d Aviation Battalian Aircraft in residence, were hit. No damage was noted on 223d Aircraft, however, five 223d Aviation Battalian personnel were wounded in action on 31 March 1970. Periods of high enemy initiated activity were 1-3 February, 8-11 February, and 27 March through 10 April. The closeout of this reporting period marks the closeout of Phase I of the VC/NVA summer campaign, and the beginning of Phase II of III Phases. A higher level of activity is expected.

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(Combat), Period Ending 30 April 1970

(3) Air Activity: Units of the 223d Aviation Battalion reported 69 shot—at incidents during this reporting period. The battalion lost 0 0-1's as a result of enemy action. The following is a breakdown by unit:

TINU	SHOT_AT*	HIT	DESTROYED	TOTAL JSIDR'S
18th Arm Co (UA)	0	1	. 0	1
183d Avn Co (UA)	2	6	0	8
185th Avn Co (UA)	25	7	0	32
203d Avn Co (UA)	10	8	0	18
219th Avn Co (UA)	18	8	0	26
225th Avn Co (Si)	14	1	0 -	15
TOTAL	69	31	0	100

- * Shot-at reports are not inclusive of hit and destroyed reports.
 - (4) Collection Plan:
- (a) The four 0-1 companies of the 223d Aviation Battalion flew 5,632 visual reconnaissance missions and reported 1,842 significant sightings. The 225th Aviation Company (Surveillanco Airplane) flew 161 SLAR missions, with 382 targets, 394 IR missions feeding back 4,540 sensings, and 158 visual/photo missions netting 572 targets.
- (b) There was one intelligence collection requirement levied upon the 223d Aviation Battalion, however, due to the nature of this unit's mission, there was no feedback to higher headquarters. A daily intelligence summary is continuing to be passed to higher headquarters, to include: VR sightings, hostile air activity, installation hits and other information cloaned from local intelligence sources. (M.CV Adv TM 42; MOK intelligence; NILO; hir Force OSI and 173d Airborne Intsum)
 - (5) Administrative Intelligence Activities:
- (a) Socurity Clearances: Botween 1 February 1970 and 30 April 1970, there have been granted 14 SECRET clearances, 36 CONFIDENTIAL clearances, and 1 Interim TOP SECRET clearance. Fourteen TOP SECRET clearances and 94 SECRET clearances were validated. Currently there are 17 USAIR verification checks pending.
 - (b) War Trophios: NONE
 - (c) Disaidence Report: NONE

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- (d) Survival, Escape, and Evasion:
- 1 All aviators assigned to the 223d Aviation Battalion received a thorough briefing on Survival, Escape, and Evasion as part of their unit inprocessing orientation. Emphasis was placed on the survival, escape and evasion equipment available and the proper procedures for employment of the equipment in order to provide for an efficient, effective recovery of downed aircrew personnel. From 26 April 1970 to 28 April 1970 an instructor team from the Air Force PACAF Jungle Survival Course presented a special program on survival to all units of the 223d Aviation Battalion. The course was very effective and brought out updated techniques and methods for Escape and Evasion action.
- 2 Many newly assigned aviators have attended one of the four available survival, escape and evasion courses while announce to the Republic of Vietnam. Available schools for enroute and assigned personnal are:
 - a PACAF Jungle Survival School (PJSS), Clark AFB, Phillipines.
 - b PACAF Life Support School (PLSS), Kadena AFB, Okinawa.
- o FAETUP Jungle Environmental Survival School (JEST), Cubic Point NAS, Phillipines.
- 2 At the present time, the battalien has 13 survival, escape, and evasion school trained personnel assigned throughout its units. During this reporting period quotes were received allowing three crewmembers from each unit of this battalien to attend the PLSS course in Okinawa. No quotas for other schools were received,

d. (C) permitions.

(1) The 223d Aviation Battalion (Combat) continued to provide fixed wing aviation support to the U.S. and Free World Forces located primarily in the II Corps Tactical Zone, Republic of Vietnam. This support was rendered utilizing the assets of one U-1A company, four O-1 companies, and one OV-1 company. The battalion flow a total of 24,703.4 hours of combat support with an average availability rate of 84.5% during this reporting period. Both normal and special operations were supported by units of the battalion. Large scale coverage was given to the beseiged troops at Dak Seang and Dak Pek as well as beginning offerts of the Cambodian entry mission. Remaining support was largely given to units operating in search of enemy supply caches, infiltration routes, anti-aircraft, mortar and rocket firing positions.

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- (2) Due to the changing status of the offensive and defensive aspects of this conflict, mission allocations and requirements have been constantly fluctuating to the necessary areas of operation. Units of this battalion have adjusted and tailered their operations in a precision manner, yielding full combat coverage to their supported units.
- (3) 18th Aviation Company (Utility Airplane): The 18th Aviation Company continued to fulfill its ten allocated mission requirements throughout all Corps areas of the Republic of Vietnam. The first platoon at Mha Trang flew five aircraft daily to support 5th Special Forces Group, JUSPAO, 17th Aviation Group and IFFV. The first flight section of the second platoon at Holloway Army Airfield in Pleiku flew two aircraft daily to support II Corps headquarters and "B" Company, 5th Special Forces Group. The second flight section, second platoon, located at Marble Mountain, Da Nang, flew three aircraft daily in support of III MAF. Assigned aircraft flew a total of 2,371.4 hours during this reporting period with an average aircraft availability rate of 72%.
- (4) 183d Aviation Company (Utility Airplane): The 183d Aviation Company continued to support ground forces in the Southeast sections of the II Corps Tactical Zone. Supported units remained the same with the exception that coverage for "C" Company Rangers, 75th Infantry (Airborne) terminated on 8 March 1970 when they moved to operations based in Pleiku. Supporting Task Force South and Binh Thuan Province from Mha Trang, Provisional Artillery from Dong Ba Thin, and Tuyen Duc Province and "C", 75th Rangers from Dalat (initially) they continued an active full coverage of their supported units with an accident free record for this period. On 24 April 1970, Section One, Third Platoon moved from Dalat to Phan Rang and continued coverage of Tuyen Duc Province. During this reporting period the 183d flew 4,819 combat and combat support hours with an average aircraft availability rate of 89%.
- (5) 185th Aviation Company (Utility Airplane): The 185th Aviation Company provided support for Darlac, Phu Bon, Quang Duc and Lam Dong Provinces. In addition, Pterodactyls supported Command and Control South with classified missions using aircraft operating out of Ban Mc Thout. Despite marginal visual flying conditions due to smoke and dust throughout this reporting period, the 185th conducted intensive visual recommissance missions within their area of operations. While overt enemy activity made a sharp decline from the provious reporting period, Pterodactyl aviators continued to seek out and destroy enemy structures and troop concentrations on a daily basis. Pterodactyl aviators reported a total of thirty-two (32) significant shot-at reports and received credit for ninety-three (93) enemy soldiers killed. The 185th Aviation Company was also responsible for the destruction of one hundred and three (103)

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enemy structures and for damaging forty-seven (47) others. During this reporting period the Pterodactyls flew 5,090 combat support hours while maintaining an aircraft availability average of 92.6%

- (6) 203d Aviation Company (Utility Airplane): The 203d Aviation Company provided support to the 173d Airborne Brigade from the first section, second platoon, LZ English, 1st and 2nd Brigades of the 4th Infantry Division from the second section, second platoon at An Khe, 6/32 Artillery and Phu Yen Province plus elements of the 173d Airborne Brigade from the third platoon at Phu Hiep, and Binh Dinh Province from the first platoon at Qui Nhon. From LZ English, the Hawkeyes continued their support of "Washington Green" operations, wherein aerial reconnaissance for the 173d Airborne Brigade yielded containment of the 3rd NVA Division who were attempting to disrupt the pacification program in the region. From Qui Mhon, direct support of the Regional and Popular Forces continued to maintain security of the rich agricultural coastal plains of Binh Dinh Province. From An Khe, the Hawkeyes supported operations: "Wayne Stab", "Putnam Shark", "Groen Deuce", "Park Silver", "Eichelberger Black", "Dear Heart White", "Wayne Wind", and "Bared Silver". In addition, 0-16's were tested in a ground sensor role and were found to be unsuitable for this task. The Hawkeyes at Phu Hiep supported "Task Force Falcon", conducted by elements of the 173d Airborne Brigade and provided valuable coverage to the Regional and Popular Forces of the area. The 203d Aviation Company flew a total of 4,671 combat hours during this reporting period and maintained an average aircraft availability of 96.5%
- (7) 219th Aviation Company (Utility Airplane): The 219th Aviation Company continued its air support for MACV Advisory Team 36 Pleiku, MACV Advisory Team 41 Kontum, 5th Special Forces Group in support of special projects CCC and CCS (Command and Control Control, and Command and Control South), 52nd Artillery Group in Plaiku and Kontum Provinces, Company C (Rangers) 75th Infantry, and the 4th Infantry Division. During this quarter the 219th Aviation Company supported two (2) large scale operations. Those operations are referred to as the April siege of Dak Seeing and the April siege of Dak Pek. The battle for Dak Seang, YB 894416, started on 1 April 1970 and continues as of this date. This operation is being supported by elements of the 5th Special Forces Group, 24th ARVN Tactical Zone, and 52nd Artillery Group. The operation in Dak Seang TAOR is now called Operation Tat Thang. The second large scale operation centers around the Special Forces base camp at Dak Pek, YB 952682. Initial contact was started on 12 April 1970 and continues as of the present time. This operation is known as the April siege of Dak Pek. Both of those operations are contered in the Dak Poko River Valley which is locatod in the West Northwest area of Kontum Province and also situated approximately fifteen (15) kilometers oast of the Laos Border. Tho 219th

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Aviation Company also flew in support of numerous small scale operations involving Regional Forces, Popular Forces, RFPF, elements of MACV Advisory Team 36 Pleiku and MACV Advisory Team 41 Kontum. Headhunters also supported company C (Rangers) 75th Infantry who conducted two small scale operations in the Plei Me and Plei Mrong areas of Pleiku Province. For a quarterly total the 219th Aviation Company compiled a total of 4,320 flying hours and while maintaining an aircraft availability rate of 74%.

(8) 225th Aviation Company (Surveillance Airplane): During the reporting period 1 February 1970 through 30 April 1970, the 225th Aviation Company continued to provide Infrared, SLAR, Visual, and day and night photographic surveillance to the II Corps Tactical Zone. Free World Forces supported during this time frame wore: 4th Infantry Division, 173d Airborno Brigade, II ARVN Corps, Task Force South, Republic of Korea 9th and 10th Divisions, 24th Special Tactical Zone, "B" Company, 5th Specirl Porces Group, 7th Squadron 17th Cavalry, 23d ARVN Division, Queng Dic Province, Phu Yon Province, MACV, and IFFV. On 2 March 1970 the 225th Aviation Company moved an Infrared Ground Data Terminal (AN/TAQ-1) from Oragon Mountain to Hong Kong Mountain at An Khe. The move was offirsted to continue supports of the 4th Infantry Division in their new are a of operations. The ground station personnel work directly with the 4th Division's G-2 Air and Imagery Interpretation Section at An Khe. On 17 March 1970, the 225th received an Annual General Inspection. The 225th's overall inspection rating was excellent. The 225th's Classified Document files and register received a rating of outstanding. On 21 Murch 1970, the 225th moved a SLaR Ground Data Terminal (AN/TKQ-2) from Fragun Mountain to the MACV compound near Pleiku Air Force Base. The move was affected to continue support of the IFFV SLAR border surveillence mission. The ILAR ground data torminal works via hot line with II dorps 6-2 Air and II DASC at the MACV compound. During March the 225th a selved a request to provide SLAR Surveillance of the river and road in The Try mon basin. Due to the small target area, the 225th's SLAR report section conducted an experiment with the SLAR system to determine if a larger scale imagery could be attained. The results of the experiment were successful, and the 225th now has the capability of a 12.5 kilometer range on the SLAR system, producing an image scale of 1:250,000, which provides more accurate target plotting than previously possible. Beginning 2 April 1970, the 225th has been launching three aircraft daily in support of the 24th Special Tactical Zone-Commander, G-2 Air IFTV, and 7th Squadron 17th Cavalry in the Dak Seang, Dak Pok, and Ben Het areas. Most of the targets requested to date in these areas have been priority I and II. The 225th is credited with discovering enemy staging and cumping areas, defensive positions, way stations, and auti-aircraft positions. B-52 strikes, Tactical Air, and artillary have been employed on targets acquired by the 225th's Infrared, Those, SLAR, and visual operations in

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these areas. While providing extra aircraft in support of the 24th Special Tactical Zone, the 225th continued to fulfill its commitments to all other supported units in the II Corps Tactical Zone. A total of 3,432 hours of flying were accomplished in support of this mission with a resulting aircraft availability of 83%.

e. (U) Training.

- (1) All quarterly training requirements were met by the units of this battalion. Areas of special emphasis have been: Escape and Evasion, Care and Maintenance of newly issued M-16 rifles, Guard responsibilities (to include proper handling of M18A1 Claymore mines and use of the signal illumination flare), classified training on KY-28 "Scrambler" communications tranciever assist and individual awareness of personal responsibility in the accident reduction program.
- (2) Aviator Safety classes were conducted monthly in all subordinate units and a bimonthly safety meeting was held at battalion level. The quarterly standardization meeting was held in Qui Nhon in March.
- (3) During this reporting period the battalion training program underwent new changes in training procedures as a result of 1st Aviation Brigade Supplement 1 to AR 95-1. Due to improvements and innovations in briefing and training newly arrived personnel, a special instructional program is to be implemented at Battalion level on a semi-monthly basis.
- (4) A Field Team from the PACAF Jungle Survival School, Clark Air Force Base, Phillipines brought extensive training on new and updated survival techniques to all personnel in the 223d Aviation Battalian who had a "need to Know" responsibility. The training will be a valuable asset to all personnel, especially because it is completely criented to environmental conditions experienced in Southeast Asia.
- (5) During this reporting period two aviators were transitioned into the U-1A by the 18th Aviation Company.

f. (U) Logistics.

(1) Continued assistance visits to platoon and section levels of this command, by members of the battalion S-4 team has been of benefit to both companies and platoon/sections. The S-4 section has been made aware of new logistical problems and can now initiate the necessary actions to aleviate problems at all levels of this command. Accountability for equipment and supplies is a command responsibility. Property Book Officers and hand receipt holders should be relieved, and replace-

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ments appointed approximately thirty (30) days prior to scheduled DEROS due to early returns to CONUS, especially among EM. Informal inventories should be conducted within platoons, sections, etc., at least every thirty (30) days by the hand receipt holders to insure proper accountability and safeguarding of government equipment and supplies against loss, theft, pilferage and to insure proper care and maintenance. Movement of personnel within the units is fast due to the short tour being served, therefore, the importance of accountability and responsibility should be emphasized constantly.

(2) Vehicle Maintenance

- (a) Due to the recent publication of the revised TM 38-750, December 1969, various forms covered by this publication have required changing. The new records system is now known as TAMMS (The Army Maintenance Management System).
- (b) PLL clerks have been given detailed guidance in order to update their PLL's. Instruction on ways to properly maintain supporting documents and conduct proper inventories were stressed. In addition, appropriate personnel were closely reviewed on pertinent regulations, AR 735-35 and 1st Aviation Brigade 735-35.

(3) Airtraft Maintenance

- (a) It has been loarned, when dealing with POL quality control, that throughout this battalion each company, platoon, and/or section must double check to insure that all precautionary and safety requirements by support personnel are complied with. 'It has been found that on some occasions proper quality control was not ensured by LSA (Logistic Support Agency) and Air Force personnel who maintain many of the refueling facilities at 223d Aviation Battalion locations.
- (b) It has been found that in many cases, on EDP parts, releases from AMMC have not reached the proper depot or DSU in the most expeditious manner. Furthermore it has been found that many times DSU channels are ineffective in tracking down lost or delayed EDP parts, in less than three or four days. It is felt that each battelion should be able to call directly to AMMC and have, for instance, one or two walk throughs per week so that the AMM can assure itself that EDP orders are being filled properly.
- (c) It has been learned that in "fixed wing only" battalions, like the 223d (with a very limited lift capability), EDP engine replacement

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proposes a serious problem, due to the fact that transporting the needed component to the unit is left up to the DSU, which has only limited lift capability. To decrease down time and increase availability it is felt that a QCA (Quick change assembly) be authorized within units that are not co-located with DSU's.

g. (U) Organization. Organizational chart and station listings appear as Inclosure #3.

h. (U) Chaplain.

- (1) The 223d Aviation Battalion (Combat) Chaplain has conducted a total of 25 Sunday Protestant religious services with the total attendance of 457 soldiers.
- (2) The Battalion Chaplain has supervised 38 denominational Sunday and weekday services with laymen leading.
- (3) During this period the chaplain has made 67 visits to troops located at An Khe, Ban Me Thout, Bao Lac, Cheo Reo, Dalat, Da Nang, Dong Ba Thin, Gia Nghia, Kontum Nha Trang, Phan Rang, Phan Thiet, Phu Hiep and Pleiku.
- (4) Sunday services are held weekly at the 223d Aviation Battalion (Combat) Headquarters and Lane Army Heliport.
- (5) During this period the Battalion Chaplain attended the Religious Day of Recollection for the 12 chaplains in the Qui Nhon area three times.
- (6) The Battalion's offerings, totaling \$229.70, were designated for local charities as determined by the Qui Nhon Area Consolidated Chaplain's Fund Council.
- (7) The 1st Aviation Brigade's Chaplain's Conference was held at Nha Trang and hosted by the 17th Aviation Group 7-8 April 1970. The 223d Aviation Battalian Chaplain attended.
- (8) The Battalion Chaplain is a member of the Qui Lihon Area Consolidated Chaplain's Fund Council.
- i. (U) Aviation Safety. This quarter closed with three major -accidents. Precautionary landings and forced landings decreased from last quarter. During this reporting period there were eleven precautionary landings and one forced landing. Three incidents were reported for

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13 May 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, 223d Aviation Battalion (Combat), Period Ending Combat (2000)

the quarter. The following chart shows the preskarwh of accidents for each:

<u>'INIT</u>	T	EATE R I CHARTER
HHC, 2231 Avn Sn (Cit') 18th Avn Co (UA) 183d Avn Co (MA) 185th Avn Co (MA) 203d Avn (MA)		0 35.7 7.1 1 (5)
225th Avr. Co (SA)	of resourced the	446000000000000000000000000000000000000
TOTAL.		11.7

j. (i) Civil Affairs.

- (1) HHC, 223d Aviati n Fattal: The sibility by maintaining maximum employment of refliger Free World Alies, providing jobs on a daily hire best that the sibility people whenever possible.
- (2) The left Aviation derivate and it compares of the unit brown a gifts of allowing, toys and other likes of the unit brown are there.
- (3) The 183d Aviation Company contributed areatly to the Tivic Acticause in Long Sa Thin during the month of February when they were instrumental in the presentation of VN \$17,700 toward civic setton projects. An outdoor social event for the families of the modal rationals emproyed by the unit was held and disner and receive were served.
- (5) The 203d Aviation Company continues at a appoint of local mations als by providing jobs for needy people as afterior.

A'/BACT-DE 13 May 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, 223d Aviation Battalion (Combat), Period Ending 30 April 1970

(5) 219th Aviation Company: NONE

(7) The 225th Aviation Company had no change in civic actions support. They made their services available to the local town structure whenever necessary.

k. (C) Signal.

- (1) ZTF Program: The 2 0-1 aircraft mentioned on ORLL dated 9 February 1270 are no longer part of this battalion's inventory. There remains only or direcraft requiring ZYR modifications, a U-1A, tail number 59-2219.
- (2) ZYS Program: All 0-1 aircraft of this battalion have the ZYS modification. Nester wiring is complete on all OV-1 aircraft except two; tail numbers 59-2615 and 60-3741. None of the OV-1 aircraft have mounts, control heads or discriminators. The U-6 aircraft nor the U-1 aircraft have mounts.
- (3) he Madro Teletype System: Three companies of the 223d Aviation Battalion remain operational in the HF Radio Teletype System. The Battalion Headquarters and the 219th Aviation Company are not fully operational due to equipment evacuated to higher echelon. One problem area affecting teletype operations is the lack of cleaning, lubrication and alignment capability for teletype equipment. A check with the 5th Maintenance Battalion indicates that they have not the capability of giving the teletype repairman was assigned, this could be done within this unit, with less teletypewriters evacuated; outage time reduced to zero on the point to point teletype circuit, and far more legible message output could be realized.

1. (U) Public Information.

- (1) The 223d Aviation Battalion Information Office continued its mission of supplying material to all subordinate units for use in their information programs and publishing the battalion monthly newspaper, "The Griffin Gab".
- (2) Support from units in the Hometown News Release Center for this period increased about 70 percent over the last quarter. This quarter's figures are as follows:

AVBACE-DE 13 May 1970 SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, 223d Aviation Battalion (Combat), Period Ending 30 April 1970

UNIT	YEB	MAR	AFR	<u>TATAL</u>
HHC, 223d Avn Bn (Cbt)	5	11	6	2.2
18th Avn Co (UA)	γ	7	Ġ	22
183d Avn Co (UA)	લ	1.	7	34
185th Avn Co (TA)	, ; · ^c)	;	75	113
203d Avn Co (Un)	7	*2	1.7	3C
219th Avn Co (F)	76	1.0	4.3	29
225th Avn 50 (3a)	19	g gr e s no monage	entitle time to the second of	- 15
TOTAL	77	162	*1	332

- (3) During this period, 51 news releases were processed through the 223d Aviation Pattalion Information Office and 33 were Corwarded to the 17th Aviation Group for use in other Command Information media.
- 2. Section 2. Lessons Learned: Commander's Chservations, Evaluations and Recommendations.
 - a. (U) Personnel. Malassignment of NCO's.
- (1) Observation: There are, throughout the 17th Aviation Group, MCC's in the grade of CFC E-7 who are quite probably malescigned.
- (2) Evaluation: There are NC11s, 67350, with little or no rotary wing experience assigned to rotary wing withs. Although the 67250 MOS qualifies the individual to perform in either category of aircraft, some doubt exists as to the propriety of assigning a 17 year SFC E-7 out of his experience category. Considering such an assignment, it isn't believed that management can justify attempting to cross train (OJT) in this situation in view of the fact that there are also 67250's with rotary wing experience in fixed wing units who fall into the same bategory. An SF7 E-7, 67250, properly assigned, is an extremely faluable asset to Army Aviation. However, a peorly assigned one, is of questionable value from the technical aspect.
- (3) hocommendation: That the assignment of rel MO's, SFC R-7, 67250, be sarround by a field group officer at limms bevel to assura quality assignment.
 - b. (C) intelligence.
 - (1) XM-76 Sighting System:
 - (a) Observation: The BM-7: Sighting System, FSN 5650-197-8817, is

14

A /DACB-Dr SUBJECT: quanti al Rejent-leadona Learnel, 223d Aviation Battalion (Ocantit), region and 30 April 1970

a valuable instrument in the hands of a trained aerial observer. The use of this device enhances the effectiveness of aerial reconnaissance while at the same time reduces the danger of exposure to enemy ground fire.

- (b) Evaluation. The 0-1 companies of this Battalion have experienced great access in employing the XM-76 Sighting System during aerial reconnaissance missions. The system provides the aerial observer with a gyro stabilized binocular device capable of zooming in on targets thereby eliminatin, the requirement for low level flight. The system enhances aftery by reducing the aircraft's exposure to enemy ground fire. The system requires MMO 55-1510-202-20/6 to be installed on the 0-1 type aircraft.
- (c) Recommendation: It is recommended that command action be taken to speed delivery of the MWO 55-1510-202-20/6 kits. It has been evidenced that the kits have been on requisition in excess of six (6) months. It is further recommended that all recommissance airplane companies in Vietnam be equipped with and utilize the XM-76 Sighting System.
- (d) Chaman Faction: The recommendation as stated is forwarded turn at contain annual for considerations.
 - (a) 1 tag. 1g.t scope in Perimeter Dofonse.
- (a) then then theny companies have no equipment to aid in night
- the result in the second of the respective of the result o
- (c) mesons adation: That the starlight be issued to companies for is, in night defensive positions. It would be advantageous if three (3) rifle mounted profiled partial and red two (2) hand held starlight scopes be made part of the company TOE or be allowed on a one hundred eighty day hand receipt.
- (d) Communications of coordinate with the base camp security detechment to mind receipt one (1) starlight scope to be used on a trial basis. Also to continue to use flares when additional light is needed.
 - c. (d) <u>prints no</u>.
 - (1) which ritght capting:
 - (a) Of a thoral coming a ricent arrest crash and the resultant

AVBACB_DE 13 May 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, 2001 Aviation Battalion (Combat), Period Enling 30 April 1970

fire, the pilot of the air raft received injuries from the fire even though he was dressed in Nomex flight clothing, Leather combat boots, gloves, and a protective helmet with face shield in the down position. His injuries realited from his having his Nomex trousers bloused with commercial blousing garters which burned and rode up onto his exposed leg, and his wearing nylon earphone covers on his helmet. These covers melted and caused owns on his ears. In addition, his nylon escape and evasion vest melted from the heat but fld not own through the Nomex shirt.

- (b) Evaluation. The wearing of homex flight clothing and other protective items saved this aviator from severe burn injuries and possibly death. Equipment Improvement Accommendations (EIR's) have been submitted on the hylon escape and evasion vest and the hylon earphone covers. Had this aviator not had his Nomex treasons bloused with the commercial garters, he would not have received him a stronger linking, a four inch their diegree burn of the left reg.
- (c) Recommendation: It is recommended that the requirement to blouse Nomex transfers be modified to preclude recurrence and that the earphone covers be removed from all flight belows.
- (i) Commaniantion: Aviation considers at all echelons should take immediate action to insure that all meagans aviators do not wear mylon carphone covers on flight holmets and above their blousing garters prior to agaging in flight.
 - i. (U) Organization. Non-
 - e. (U) Training. None
 - r. (3) Logistics. Major Repair Perts.
- (1) Observation: Arist on maits state and for away from their Direct Support Units lose many valuable as are of directful availability when they are required to go DDF for rajor repair justs.
- + (2) Evaluation: This problem with a climinatur if outlying companies were authorized to keep major repair parts such as one angine carbur tor, and two cylinder jugs on bane at all times.
- (3) Recomm a tion: All outraying company a uncall by granted the authorization to keep major repair parts on hard, and replace engines at company level at the dissection of the employ dominator.

AVBACE-DE 13 May 1970 Operational Report-Leasons Learned, 223d Aviation Battalion (Course), Feriod Ending 10 April 1970

(4) Command Action: In implementing this procedure, one company coordinated VLAN under Pirect Support Unit on the matter. They were advised that arries were not available in the necessary quantity, however measures were the on to ascure response at the first opportunity.

WILLIAM M. JENKINS JR.

LTC, IN

Dommanding

- g. (U) Communications. None
- H. (U) Material. None
- .. / Officers, None

5 Incl

1. Unit St engths

2. Unit Carnalties and Awards

3. Operational Statistics

4. Aircraft Status

5, Organi .. ational Chart

DISTRIBUTION

2 CHUSARFAC, ATTN: GPOP-DT, APO 96358 3 CG, USARW, ATTN: AVHGC-DST, APO 96375 2 CG, 1st Avn Bde, ATTN: AVBAGC-O, APO 96384 7 Cf, 17th Avn Gp (Cbt), ATTN: AVBAUB-SC, APO 96240

AVBACB-SC (13 May 70) 1st Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Herdquarters, 223rd Aviation Battalion (Combat), Period Ending 30 April 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

DA, HEADQUARTERS, 17TH AVIATION GROUP (COMBAT), APO 96240 29 May 1970

TO: Department of the Army (ACSFOR, DA), Washington, D.C. 30310 Commanding General, I Field Force Vietnam, APO 96350

- 1. (b) This Headquarters has reviewed the attached report, considers it adequate, and concurs with the contents, except as indicated below.
 - c. Section 1. Operations: Significant activities.

(1) Personnel.

Non concur with paragraph 1b (4). The authorized military strength figures shown in inclosure 1 are incorrect. The correct figures are shown below.

UNIT	<u>PM</u>	TOTAL
HHC	85	107
18thvn Co	129	168
163rd Med Dot	7	8
183rd Avn Co	ນ ູ	123
1850h avn Co	8\$	123
203rd Avn Co	59	123
225th avn Co	290	331
Bn Total Should Reflect:	582	1130

(2) Losistics.

- (a) Non concur with paragraph lf(3)(b). There are occasions when releases are delayed by transportation. AMMC cannot deal with each battalion on a regular basis. This Headquarters has established liaison with AMMC and will trace EDP's over 7 days old and walk through requisitions for urgent requirement items. Units requiring assistance should contact the Group Maintenance Officer.
- (b) Concur with paragraph lf(3)(c). Units should submit formal request with justifications, through their supporting DSU to AMMC.

AVBACB-SC (13 May 70) 1st Ind 29. my 1970 SUBJECT: Operational Report - bessens Learned, Hindquart rs, 223rd Aviation Battalion (Commett), reviod Ending 30 April 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

approval will depend upon evailability of enginer and become in the movel validation procedures set forth in a The-23.

(3) Signal.

Non-concur with our migh iki? A. The area by maint name level function and should not to perform a stunit one l.

b. Section C. Distory Mark as a respect to the second recommend term.

(1) tirsonnel.

Non-concur with the philosophic of a surface that yet mais managed by a bignly qualified derivative filters, it is soon for if NCO. This particular fed is an error of an offer, yet assible in all units, ments are made to obtain the most of timems of the constitutional limits, assignments predicted and in him and of all films that they was, or fixed wing is considered but the obtained above the complianted without experiencing considerable imbalances or managementy that alone . Unit did not anclude a command action comment.

(2) Int langution.

will to issued by a plane to the constraint of the finite data x_i

(b) Domour with pint a project (h). The company is stituled responsible for inspiral then we have the first or on an in-the command channel to 1997 the ending to the order of the scopes required on particle of details.

(E) in that term

by a factory feloric moderation of the product of t

c. Inclosures, denominate with providence of A.

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Lin 3-30 (13 May 70) 1st had 2 May 1970

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orT, AGC asst Adjut.nt

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AVFA-GC-HIST (13 May 70) 2d Ind SUBSUBST: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, headquarters, 223d Aviation Battalion (Combat), Feriod Ending 30 April 1970, 3Co, CSFOR-65 (32)

DA, Headquarters, I Field Force Vietnam, APO S.F. 96350 5 JUN 19/u

TO: Commanding General, 1st Aviation Brigade, APO 96334

This headquarters has reviewed and evaluated subject Operational Report-Lessons Learned and forwarding indorsement and concurs.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

ROBERT L. ALDERMAN Lieutenant Colonel, AGC Acting Adjutant General

OF: 1 - 00, 17TH AVN GF (0), (LESS ORLL) 1 - 10, 223D AVN BB (0), (LESS ORLL) AVBAGC=0 (13 May 70) 3d Ind SUEJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, 223d Aviation Battalian (Combat), Period Ending 30 April 1970

DA, HEADQUAINTIES, IST AVLATICA ERIBADO, ARC 96384 21 JUN 1970

- TERU: Commanding Jeneral, Unite: States Army Vietnam, APTN: AVEGO-Del, APO 36 75 Command rein-Onter, hit of United Amp Lactic, ATTN: GPOP-UT, APC 37558
- Tt: Assir sut Chief of Stadt . From Nevel [ment, Department of the Army, Washington, N.C. 12]

This heatquart on has reviewed to appear a hal he ort-Lessons Learned of the 223d Aviation pattalion (C. dat, som seneuro with the report, with the following exceptions:

- a. Paragraph 2f(3)(h), page 10; who hour. A revised system for requisitioning and districtular ablancements was but into effect 10 March 17, which has improved EDF response time. Althous authorized ten walk through requisitions per day for all units having lists on personnel. The 17th Aviation Group (Combat) has distance the year with MINC.
- b. Faragraps, 2f(3)(a), page and nour, ungines are AHT items, which are not subscribed for stroking to with level in accordance with AHC directives.

FOR PUB COMMANDAL

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AVHIC TO (13 May 70) 4th Ind

BUBJECT Operational Report-Lessons Learned, 223d Aviation Battalion
(Combat), Period Ending 30 April 1970

Headquarters, United States Army, Vietnam, APO San Francisco 96375 1 1111 ...

TO: Consender in Thief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-DT, AFO 96558

to the constant of the Constant Report-Lessons Learned to the constant of the

2. Reference that concerning "Nomex Flight Clothing," page 15, 2c: Concur. There exists no USARV requirement that the Nomex trousers be bloused; for aerial Clight it is recommended that they not be bloused. The nylon eached covers are not standard issue for use with the SPH-4 helmet. These covers should not be used. This information is being published in the USARV Aviation Safety Weekly Summary. The nylon survival vest, SRU-21/P, does not present an unacceptable risk when worn over the Nomex clothing. This head-quarters is requesting USABAAR to conduct an evaluation of the safety aspects of the vest. No action by USARPAC or DA is recommended.

Assistant majora I Coneral

FOR THE COMMANDER:

JF1

Hw. 1st Avn Bde

19, 2031 Avn Bn (Cbt)

GPOP-DT (13 May 70) 5th Ind (U)
SUBJECT: Operational Pepirt of HQ, 223d Aviation Battalion (Combat), for Period Ending 30 April 1970,
RCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 🚮 👫 🔾

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for morce Development, Department of the Army, Washington, and Co. 200310

Inis headquarters can are in subject report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDEE IN CHIEFE

D.D. CLINE ZLT, AGC

Asst A?

UNIT STRENGTHS AS OF 30 APRIL 1970

1. MILITARY

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18th Avn 👵 🖟	15	15	24	15	130	110	169	140
1631 Mod Det	1	1	0	0	8	7	9	8
183d Ava Co (Ga)	32	16	2	7	90	84	124	107
185th Avr. Co (UA)	32	21	2	5	90	87	124	113
203d 'm i 0. (JA)	32	18	2	5	90	37	124	108
219th An Co (UA)	41	19	2	3	104	109	147	131
225th Aun Co (W.)	19	17	22	13	291	295	350	325
T DAI	191	121	57	51	890	863	1138	1035

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185th Avn Co (W.)	0	n	10	9	()	0	0	0
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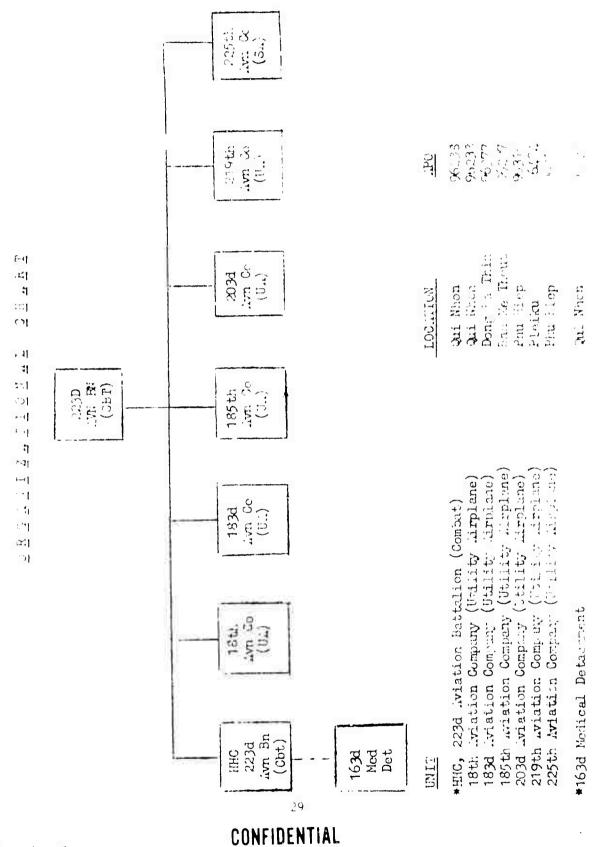
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203d lwn Co (U.)	2/,	23	1	1	0	0	0	0
219th Avn Co (UA)	32	22	1	1	0	0	0	С
225th ivn 0 (Si)	0	0	1	1	0	0	18	18
TOTAL	104	91	8	6	16	16	18	18

28

Incl #4



In. 1#5

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$\alpha \Omega_{r}$	
10 (j	
$m = \int_{\mathcal{L}_{k',k'}} \mathcal{L}_{k',k'}$	